voluntary organisations; improving quality of services; enhancing child survival; strengthening of information, education and communication; promotion of temporary contraceptive methods etc. No major change in the strategy is contemplated at present.

(c) The outlay for the 7th Five Year Plan under the programme is Rs. 3,256 crores. Outlays during first four years of the Plan are indicated below:

1985-86	Rs. 500.00 crores
1986-87	Rs. 530.00 crores
1987-88	Rs. 585.00 crores
1988-89	Rs. 600.00 crores

Shortage of Blood in Medical Institutions

119. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news item which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 27th June, 1988 to the effect that a large number of medical institutions in the country are being starved of blood thus affecting medical treatment to the patients;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a study has been conducted by the Blood Bank of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh to locate the places where the shortage of blood is acute; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the report and the study conducted by this institute, the places where such shortage has been reported and what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The Government has seen the news item. The main reasons for the shortage of blood in the medical institutions are:

(i) Reluctance for blood donation due to prevelance of erroneous misconception among public.

(ii) Increased demand for blood to increase in population, early detection of diseases due to expansion of health infrastructure and availability of specialised facilities like Neurosurgery, Cardiothoracic surgery etc.

It has been estimated that there is about 50 per cent shortage of blood to the total requirements.

(c) The Government has not received the Study Report.

(d) Does not arise.

It is however stated that during the current Plan period, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is already implementing a Scheme on Development and Modernisation of Blood Banking and Blood Transfusion services with a view to meeting the requirements of blood in the country. The provision for the scheme during the current Plan is Rs. 5 crores.

Raising the speed of trains

120. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 29th June, 1988 to the effect that Research, Design and

Standard Organisation of Railways is engaged in indepth studies for raising the speed of Mail and Express Trains to 160 kms. per hour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the speed of the trains is likely to be increased to that level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RDSO has drawn a Technology Development Plan which provides for operation of passenger services upto 160 km/h. A Status paper bringing out projects required to be undertaken in fields of formation, track, bridges, hauling power, OHE system, coaching stock, signalling and telecommunication etc. has been prepared by RDSO.

(c) The studies are likely to be completed in a period of about 5 years from the time these are taken up. The increase of speeds will depend upon developing the requisite infrastructure, trained man-power etc. based on the result of studies.

Improvement in passenger amenities in trains and on platforms

121. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any special steps on priority basis to further improve passenger amenities in running trains and on the platforms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount has been earmarked for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are explained in the Statement attached. (*See* below)

(c) An amount of Rs. 24.12 crores has been earmarked in the Budget for the year 1988-89.

Statement

A separate Directorate of Passenger Amenities has been set up in the Ministry of Railways to ensure effective coordination in implementing the policy guidelines, ensure adequate response and cater expeditiously to the needs of the travelling public.

While at the Zonal Railways Headquarters level the Additional General Managers have been entrusted with the task of coordination in respect of all aspects of passenger amenities, at the Divisional level, one ADRM on each Division has been nominated for coordinating and monitoring all aspects of passenger amenities covering all departments.

Improvement of facilities/amenities for the passengers is a continuous process. Some of the improvements made or proposed to be made in long distance trains and on platforms are listed below:—

(i) Drinking water facilities have been provided on all important long distance trains and stations.

(ii) Provision of bed rolls to passengers in important Mail/Express trains.

(iii) Introduction of casserole service in selected trains for serving hot/tasty food in hygienic condition to passengers.

(iv) On long distance trains, all wooden seats in Second Class Coaches are progressively being converted into cushion type.

(v) Water tank capacity of each lavatory on broad gauge has been increased from 1272 litres to 1820 litres and on metre gauge from 960 litres to 1206 litres per coach.

(vi) To reduce overcrowding and to provide greater travelling